



# The Albino's Trees

Ryohei Matsuoka   Kanako Higashi   Yusuke Fukuchi  
Kinuo Yamada   Hatsunori Hasegawa

A Film by Masakazu Kaneko   2016 / Japan / 86min / DCP ©kinone   [www.albinonoki.com](http://www.albinonoki.com)

**Original (Japanese) title:** ALBINO NO KI -Press book-

**English title:** The Albino's Trees

Genre: Drama

Year: 2016

Running time: 86minutes

Film format: 2D DCP(24 Frames/second) / Blu-ray(30 Frames/second)

Sound: 5.1ch / Stereo

Screen ratio: 1:1.78(16:9)

Color: Color

Language: Japanese / Subtitles: English

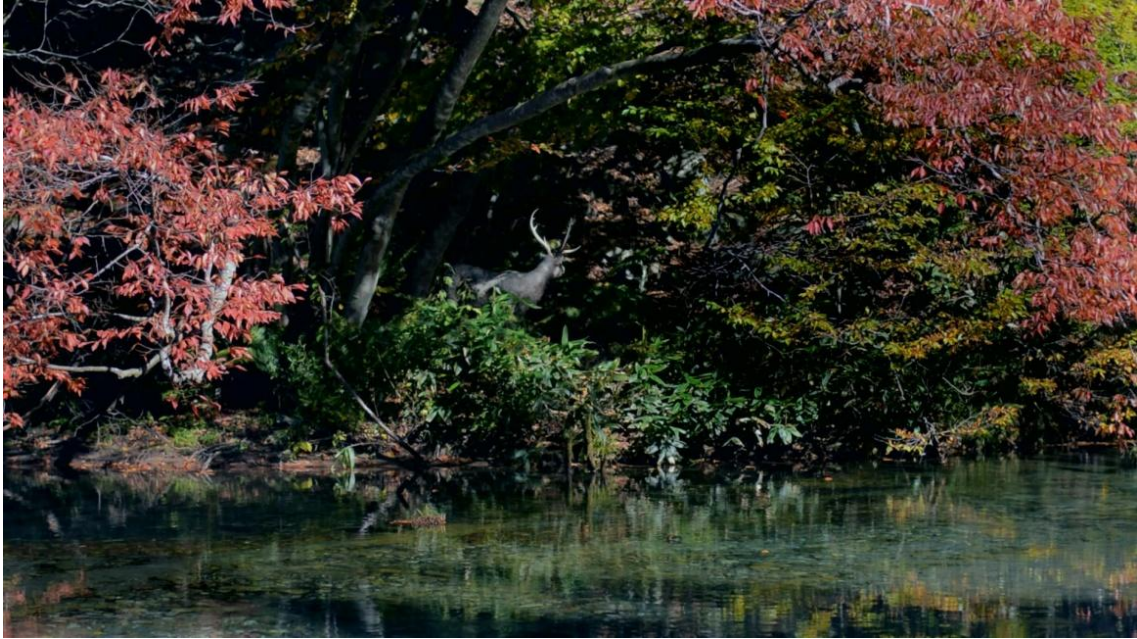
Official HP: <http://www.albinonoki.com/en/>



## **Synopsis**

Yuku is a hunter who works for animal damage control programmes in the mountains of central Japan. In order to afford the medical bills for the treatment of his mother's illness, he accepts a lucrative contract to kill a rare, white deer that lives in the forest by a remote village, and whose presence is thought to undermine tourism in the region by the neighbouring town's bureaucrats.

As he ventures into the village, however, he discovers that the animal is venerated as a god by the local community, which lives in a state of semi-isolation from the rest of society. While assessing his ethical responsibilities in undertaking such a task, he gets closer to inhabitants of the village, facing their conflicting emotions as to whether they should keep living as "outsiders".



### **Director's Statement**

Being human inevitably implies the killing of other living things. Yet we often lack the real sense of what killing means, and our awareness of it is usually limited to some numbers on a paper. Indeed, especially for those like me who have been growing up in a metropolis, there's the tendency to overlook the fact that our everyday life entails the sacrifice of other lives, and we are too often driven by egoism in trying to protect ourselves and those close to us at the expense of others.

In this movie, by focusing on the struggle of a man over the life and death of an animal, I tried to express not only the constantly problematic relationship between people and nature, but the importance of thinking about others as well.





### Screening & Award

- \*Beijing International Film Festival 2016 (China) - Official Selection
- \*Hiroshima International Film Festival 2016 (Japan) - Official Selection
- \*Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival 2016 (Japan) - Official Selection
- \*Calcutta International Cult Film Festival 2016 (India)
  - "Best Narrative Feature Award" won (December 2016 Selection)
- \*Kollata International Wildlife & Environment Film Festival 2016 (India)
  - Official Selection
- \*Bodhisattva International Film Festival 2017 (India) - Official Selection
- \*Silk Road International Film Festival 2017 (Ireland) - Official Selection



## **Biography of the director: Masakazu Kaneko**

Kaneko was born in 1978 in Tokyo.

He graduated from Aoyama Gakuin University, School of International Politics, in Economics & Communication. During university, he started to make film essays on 8mm and 16mm film.

After graduating from university, he went to The Film School of Tokyo and studied under Takahisa Zeze, the director of “Heaven’s Story”, which won the FIPRESCI Prize at the 61st Berlin International Film Festival.

His proposal was selected by the school for a scholarship towards his graduation project. The result was his debut film “Sumire Ningyo”, which was officially screened at Japan-Filmfest Hamburg in Germany.

Since then, while working as a director and cameraman for educational movies and commercials, he has directed 6 short films, including several selected for grants. His films have been screened and won prizes at well-known film festivals in Japan, including Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival, Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Sapporo Short Fest, and Image Forum Film Festival.

In 2016, he completed his second feature film "The Albino's Trees". This film was screened at Beijing International Film Festival 2016 as an international premiere. And now, several international film festivals have chosen this.





**Filmography of the director: Masakazu Kaneko**

“Sumire Ningyo”	2008 / 63min / Color / First Feature Film
“Rapunzel”	2008 / 18min / Color / Short Film
“Konagona”	2009 / 10min / Color / Short Film
“Lost Story”	2009 / 34min / Color / Short Film
“The Man Who Restores”	2010 / 29min / Color / Short Film
“Camera Obscura”	2013 / 30min / Color / Short Film
“Secret Meeting”	2013 / 36min / Color / Short Film
“The Albino's Trees”	2016 / 86min / Color / Second Feature Film



## Cast and Credit List

### Cast

Ryohei Matsuoka  
Kanao Higashi  
Yusuke Fukuchi  
Kinuo Yamada  
Hatsunori Hasegawa  
Syuichiro Masuda  
Ai Ozaki  
Hiroyuki Matsukage  
Manabu Hosoi  
Mari Matsunaga  
Chie Yamaguchi

### Staff

Screenplay: Masakazu Kaneko, Miyuki Kaneko  
DoP: Masakazu Kaneko  
Assistant Camera: Tetsuya Azuma  
Lighting Technician: Hiroaki Shiraishi  
Sound Recording: Tsubasa Mano  
Art Director / Costume Design: Miyuki Kaneko  
Makeup: Kanao Chino, Keishiro Suzuki  
Assistant Director: Hirohito Takino, Tomoshi Noboriyama  
Director's Assistant: Yuichiro Fukuda  
Production Manager: Ai Nagura, Kurato Horiuchi  
Sound Design: Yong-Chang Hwang  
Visual Effects: Koya Takahashi, Aya Takahashi  
Music: Eiko Ishibashi  
Location Co-ordinator: Fumihiko Sakazume  
Location Support: Suzaka City, Nagano Prefecture

Producer: Miyuki Kaneko, Masakazu Kaneko, Keiko Kusakabe, Aki Nagamura  
Director / Film Editor: Masakazu Kaneko  
Production: kinone  
Distributor: MAKOTOYA